

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR

SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE, MAY 29

FOR ANDERSON FROM KING

SUMMARY: WEDNESDAY PAPERS COVER LAST MINUTE HAK FLIGHT TO DAMASCUS, REPORT AGREEMENT VIRTUALLY ASSURED. AFTERNOON WIRES SEE IN ANNOUNCEMENT OF AGREEMENT MAJOR DIPLOMATIC TRIUMPH FOR HAK. END SUMMARY.

1. GWERTZMAN STORY, NYT PAGE 1 TOP, "KISSINGER, SHIFTING PLANS, VISITS SYRIA ONCE MORE", REPORTS HAK FLIES UNEXPECTEDLY TO DAMASCUS IN ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE "THE VERY, VERY FEW PROBLEMS " THAT REMAIN. OFFICIALS PROVIDE NO GUIDANCE ON WHETHER REMAINING OBSTACLES OVERCOME, BUT SAY ISRAELI ACCEPTANCE WILL PRODUCE ANNOUNCEMENT IN AFTERNOON. GWERTZMAN REPORTS OFFICIALS RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS DETAILS BUT ONE OFFICIAL SAYS ACCORD IS IN "THE TERMINAL PHASE" OF NEGOTIATIONS. OFFICIALS ALSO SAY SITUATION NOT AS GLOOMY AS NEWSMEN BELIEVE. HAK SAYS AFTER MEETING WITH MEIR, "I SHOULD DO THE FINAL LAP MYSELF."

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2. POST'S BERGER ARTICLE PAGE 1, "AGREEMENT ON GOLAN PACT

SEEN TODAY", REPORTS AGREEMENT SEEMS VIRTUALLY ASSURED

FOLLOWING HAK TRIP TO DAMASCUS AND EARLY MORNING MEETING WITH ISRAELIS. BERGER REPORTS HAK PAYS COURTESY CALL ON GROMYKO, SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL INDICATES GROMYKO PLAYS NO SIGNIFICANT ROLE. SAME OFFICIAL NOTES SCHEDULED TRIP SHOULD NOT BE READ AS POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE DEVELOPMENT; QUOTES OFFICIAL AS SAYING "NEGOTIATIONS ARE IN EXTREMELY COMPLEX TERMINAL STAGE." OFFICIALS REFUSE TO OUTLINE REMAINING PROBLEMS AND SUGGEST REPORTERS READ TOO MUCH PESSIMISM INTO SITUATION MONDAY NIGHT.

3. O'LEARY STORY "GOLAN ACCORD APPEARS ASSURED", PAGE 1, LEADS WITH EXPECTATION ISRAELI CABINET WILL RATIFY MILITARY DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT TODAY. PERES TELLS REPORTERS FEW "MINOR OBSTACLES" REMAIN. U.S. OFFICIALS SAY MOST DOCUMENTS ALREADY DRAFTED BEFORE KISSINGER'S 13TH TRIP TO DAMASCUS. DETAILS OF AGREEMENT CLOSELY HELD BY U.S. ISRAELI AND SYRIAN OFFICIALS. SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL TELLS REPORTERS THEY ARE TOO PESSIMISTIC BUT ALSO WARNS AGAINST OVER OPTIMISM. OFFICIAL ALSO SAYS GROMYKO NOT ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN 11TH HOUR DECISIONS. O'LEARY REPORTS HAK MAKES NO AIRPORT STATEMENT. QUOTES SENIOR OFFICIAL "WHAT COULD HE SAY? THAT WE WERE ON THE LAST 10 YARDS AND SLICING AT IT INCH BY INCH?" ENROUTE DAMASCUS, OFFICIAL SAYS MEIR THOUGH HAK SHOULD GO ONCE MORE.

4. JHABVALA STORY IN GLOBE PAGE 1, "ISRAELI CABINET PONDERES PACT, AGREEMENT IS EXPECTED TODAY", REPORTS AFTER "FINAL" ROUND OF TALKS SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL INDICATES PROSPECTS IMPROVE FOR ACCORD. OFFICIAL ALSO SUGGESTS DECISION IS NOW UP TO ISRAEL AND OUTCOME WILL BE KNOWN AFTER ISRAELI CABINET MEETING. JHABVALA QUOTES HAK ON DESIRE TO MAKE FINAL LAP. AMERICAN OFFICIALS DISCOURAGE GLOOM BUT CAUTION AGAINST "OVER OPTIMISM". A SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAYS NEW NUANCES IN ISRAELI POSITION MAKE HAK DESIRE PERSONALLY TO TAKE THEM UP WITH ASAD.

5. MONITOR STORY BY SAIKOWSKI PAGE 2 "KISSINGER OFF TO DAMASCUS AGAIN" REPORTS UNDISPUTED FACT OF ARDOUS, INTENSE, UNCLASSIFIED

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MONTH-LONG NEGOTIATIONS IS BOTH SYRIA AND ISRAEL WANT AGREEMENT. AMERICAN OFFICIALS INDICATE POSITIVE MOVEMENT. AFTER 17 HOURS OF TALKS, HIGH U.S. OFFICIAL TELLS NEWSMEN MONDAY NIGHT SYRIANS RAISE AN ISSUE PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT TO BE SETTLED. SAME OFFICIAL CAREFUL NOT TO PLACE BLAME FOR IMPASSE ON EITHER SIDE. KISSINGER SAYS DIFFERENCES ARE "NARROWED TO A VERY FEW". HIGH U.S. OFFICIAL FURTHER TELLS NEWSMEN ABOARD PLANE FROM DAMASCUS TERRORISM

IS AN ISSUE FOR DISCUSSION WITH ISRAELI LEADERS.

6. AP AFTERNOON WIRE REPORTS ISRAEL AND SYRIA CONCLUDE SEPARATION OF FORCES AGREEMENT AFTER HAK WINS MAJOR ISRAELI CONCESSIONS ON PALESTINIAN GUERRILLA ATTACKS. REPORTS MEIR WILL ANNOUNCE AGREEMENT TONIGHT, ISRAELI AND SYRIAN COMMANDERS WILL SIGN PACT IN GENEVA IN A FEW DAYS, WITH FIGHTING TO STOP AND PRISONERS TO BE EXCHANGED AT THAT TIME. SOURCES SAY ISRAEL ORIGINALLY INSISTED SYRIA COMMIT ITSELF ON PAPER TO RESTRAIN GUERRILLAS, THEN SETTLED LETTER IN WHICH U.S. EXPRESSES UNDERSTANDING AS TO WHY ISRAEL WOULD REACT FORCIBLY TO TERRORIST ATTACKS. QUOTES FROM NIXON ANNOUNCEMENT.

7. UPI SEES MAJOR DIPLOMATIC TRIUMPH FOR HAK IN ANNOUNCEMENT OF TROOP DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. AGREEMENT WILL BE SIGNED FRIDAY IN EGYPTIAN WORKING GROUP OF GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE WHICH SYRIA IS EXPECTED TO JOIN. AGREEMENT INCLUDES ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO CEASE-FIRE LINE IN GOLAN HEIGHTS, BUFFER ZONE, THINNING OUT OF FORCES, U.N. FORCE TO POLICE AGREEMENT, AND EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS. UPI REPORTS HAK WEARY FROM 13 SHUTTLES, WILL START FOR HOME THURSDAY AM STOPPING FOR LUNCH WITH SADAT AND ARRIVING WASHINGTON THURSDAY EVENING. ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL IN WASHINGTON SAYS PRIVATELY RN MAY LEAVE FOR MIDDLE EAST AS EARLY AS JUNE 6 FOR WEEK-LONG SWING TO ISRAEL, EGYPT, JORDAN, SAUDI ARABIA, AND PERHAPS SYRIA AND ALGERIA. OFFICIAL SAYS RN WOULD RETURN TO U.S., THEN LEAVE AROUND JUNE 21 FOR MOSCOW SUMMIT MEETING. END TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE. BROWN

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